

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01
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APPROVED BY ACTING SECRETARY:WCHRISTOPHER
DOD/ISA:JANKA; S/S:JTHYDEN
PM:RERICSON
S/P:HWARD
AID:HJOHNSON
NSC:PHENZE
T:WMARSH
EUR/WE:SWORREL
AF:WHARROP

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O R 270155Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

S E C R E T STATE 205519

FOR ASST. SECRETARY MOOSE FM ACTING ASST. SECRETARY HARROP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SO, US, KE

SUBJECT:REASSURANCES TO KENYA RE SOMALIA

1. PRC MEETING AUGUST 25 DISCUSSED KENYAN FEARS THAT
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SOMALIS, ONCE HAVING SECURED THE OGADEN, WILL PURSUE
THEIR IRREDENTIST DESIGNS ON KENYA. PRC CONSENSUS WAS
THAT, WHILE KENYAN FEARS PROBABLY UNJUSTIFIED (GIVEN
SOMALI PREOCCUPATION WITH HOLDING ON TO THEIR ILL-GOTTEN
OGADEN GAINS), KENYA'S IMPORTANCE TO US WARRANTS STEPS
BY US TO PROVIDE KENYANS WITH SOME REASSURANCE.

2. WE HAVE IN MIND AN APPROACH TO GOK AT HIGHEST FEASIBLE LEVEL BY US SPOKESMAN, PREFERABLY YOURSELF IF STOP IN NAIROBI CAN BE ARRANGED DURING CURRENT SWING, OR BY AMBASSADOR LE MELLE. WE HAVE CLEARED FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS TO BE USED IN SUCH APPROACH, SUBJECT YOUR CONCURRENCE:

(A) USG HAD INTERESTS OF KENYA VERY MUCH IN MIND WHEN WE MADE OUR DECISION IN PRINCIPLE TO PROVIDE DEFENSE ARTICLES TO SOMALIA. INDEED, WE MADE THAT DECISION ONLY AFTER WE HAD ASCERTAINED THAT KENYA SHARED OUR VIEW THAT INCREASED WESTERN INFLUENCE IN SOMALIA, VIA THE SUPPLY OF ARMS, AND A CONSEQUENT DECREASE OF SOVIET INFLUENCE, WOULD BENEFIT KENYA: A SOMALIA WITH TIES TO WESTERN COUNTRIES HAVING SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH KENYA (E.G., US AND UK) WOULD

BE MORE AMENABLE TO ACCOMMODATION WITH KENYA. AGAIN WITH KENYA IN MIND, WE INFORMED THE SOMALIS THAT ANYTHING WE SUPPLIED THEM WOULD BE STRICTLY DEFENSIVE IN NATURE AND COULD BE USED ONLY TO DEFEND SOMALIA'S EXISTING INTERNATIONALLY-RECOGNIZED TERRITORY.

(B) FIGHTING IN THE OGADEN HAS SUBSEQUENTLY ESCALATED TO POINT WHERE REGULAR MILITARY UNITS FROM SOMALIA ARE RELIABLY REPORTED TO BE ENGAGED. NOT WISHING TO BECOME INVOLVED ON THE SIDE OF THE AGGRESSOR IN AN OPEN CONFLICT BETWEEN AFRICAN COUNTRIES, WE HAVE INFORMED THE SOMALIS THAT WE CANNOT IMPLEMENT OUR AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE WHILE THE OGADEN REMAINS IN TURMOIL. BEFORE TAKING STEPS TO IMPLEMENT OUR
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DECISION AT SOME FUTURE TIME, WE INTEND TO CONSULT FIRST WITH GOK.

(C) WE EXPECT THAT ETHIOPIA WILL IN DUE COURSE, ONCE IT HAS ASSIMILATED ITS NEW SOVIET ARMS, ATTEMPT TO RETAKE THE OGADEN. THIS MEANS THE SOMALIS WILL BE PREOCCUPIED FOR SOME CONSIDERABLE TIME IN MAINTAINING THE POSITION THEY HAVE GAINED IN THE OGADEN. CONSEQUENTLY, WE DOUBT THAT SOMALIA WILL FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE BE IN A POSITION TO PURSUE ITS IRREDENTIST AMBITIONS IN KENYA'S NORTHEAST PROVINCE. IT WOULD, IN FACT, SEEM MORE IN THEIR INTEREST TO WORK FOR A RELATIONSHIP OF FRIENDSHIP WITH KENYA WHILE ATTEMPTING TO PREVENT THE ETHIOPIANS FROM RETAKING THE OGADEN.

(D) HOWEVER, IF KENYA CONTINUES TO BE CONCERNED FOR THE SECURITY OF ITS NORTHEAST PROVINCE, THE U.S. IS PREPARED TO CONSIDER PROPOSALS THE GOK MAY WISH TO MAKE CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF DEFENSE ARTICLES TO ENHANCE ITS SECURITY THERE. THE U.S. IS ALSO PREPARED TO DISCUSS WAYS TO EXPAND ITS ECONOMIC AID EFFORTS IN THE NORTHEAST PROVINCE THUS ENHANCING THE FEELINGS OF LOYALTY TOWARD THE GOK OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE REGION.

3. WE UNDERSTAND THAT BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN

PLANS TO HAVE TALKS WITH GOK OFFICIALS AUGUST 29 ON BOTH RHODESIA AND THE HORN. SUGGEST YOU MAY WISH TO COORDINATE WITH WITH HIM ON APPROACHES TO GOK BOTH CONCERNING TIMING AND CONTENT.

4. FYI: SITUATION IN OGADEN SEEMS AT MOMENT SOMEWHAT STALEMATED WITH SOMALI EFFORTS TO CAPTURE DIRE DAWA SO FAR UNSUCCESSFUL. ADDITIONAL ATTACKS ARE EXPECTED. SOMALIS CONTINUING TO PRESS WESTWARD INTO TERRITORY NOT INHABITED BY ETHNIC SOMALIS. MEANWHILE, MENGISTU EMPHASIZING PATRIOTISM AND DE-EMPHASIZING IDEOLOGY IN HIS ACTIONS AND RHETORIC TO RALLY COUNTRY. ETHIOPIAN POSITION IN

ERITREA CONTINUES TO ERODE; ADDIS NOW MUST RELY ON
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ASSAB PORT AND HIGHWAY FOR INCOMING CIVILIAN AND MILITARY GOODS AND THERE IS GROWING PROBLEM OF POL DISTRIBUTION FOR BOTH CIVILIANS AND MILITARY. IN PAST WEEK SOVIETS HAVE, VIA TASS, TILTED PUBLICLY TOWARDS ETHIOPIA WHICH IN TURN HAS PROMPTED RADIO MOGADISCIO TO REBUKE SOVIETS FOR ITS STAND. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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